

REMARKS

Claims 2-4 and 7-20 are pending in the application. Applicant amends claims 2 and 20 and cancels claim 8 herein. The features of cancelled claim 8 are incorporated into amended claims 2 and 20. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 2-4 and 7-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hofrichter (PCT/US01/45355) in view of Matsukura (U.S. Pat. No. 6,145,126). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 2 recites a device management system which connects a network device with a device management terminal that manages the network device so that they can communicate with each other. The system comprises: the device management terminal including a module storing section for storing a function provision module that is applied to the network device to provide it with functions, a device information receiving section for receiving device information regarding the network device, a function determining section for determining a function provision module that has a function available to the network device based on the device information received by the device information receiving section, a module reading section for reading the function provision module determined by the function determining section from the module storing section, a module sending section for sending the function provision module read by the module reading section to the network device, and a function selecting section that allows a user to select one or more of the functions corresponding to the

function provision module determined by the function determining section, and wherein the module reading section reads out a function provision module that corresponds to a function selected by the function selecting section from the module storing section, and the network device including a device information storing section for storing the device information, a device information sending section for sending the device information stored by the device information storing section to the device management terminal, a module receiving section for receiving the function provision module, a module executing section for executing the function provision module received by the module receiving section. The device management terminal includes a selection interface generating section for generating a selection interface through which one can select one or more of the functions corresponding to the function provision module determined by the function determining section, and the function selecting section presents the selection interface generated by the selection interface generating section to the user so that the user can select one or more of the functions.

Thus, claim 2 requires the device management terminal to includes a selection interface generating section for generating a selection interface through which one can select one or more of the functions corresponding to the function provision module determined by the function determining section. Claim 2 also requires the function selecting section to present the selection interface generated by the selection interface generating section to the user so that the user can select one or more of the functions. This subject matter was previously recited in claim 8.

With respect to claim 8, the Office Action asserted that this subject matter is disclosed in Figs. 20-26, column 19, line 20 – column 20, line 45 in Matsukura.

Applicant respectfully disagrees. More particularly, Matsukura does not teach that the device management terminal includes a selection interface generating section for generating a selection interface through which one can select one or more of the functions corresponding to function provision module determined by the function determining section and the function selecting section presents the selection interface generated by the selection interface generating section to the user so that the user can select one or more of the functions. Even more particularly, the feature “the selection interface generated by said selection interface generating section to the user so that the user can select one or more of the functions” is not disclosed or suggested in Matsukura.

It is a longstanding rule that to establish a prima facie case of obviousness of a claimed invention, all of the claim limitations must be taught or suggested by the prior art. *In re Royka*, 180 USPQ 143 (CCPA 1974), see MPEP §2143.03. Furthermore, when evaluating claims for obviousness under 35 U.S.C. §103, all of the limitations must be considered and given weight. *Ex parte Grasselli*, 231 USPQ 393 (Bd. App. 1983), MPEP § 2144.03. Here, the alleged combination fails to disclose (and in particular, Matsukura fails to disclose) the limitation of “the selection interface generated by said selection interface generating section to the user so that the user can select one or more of the functions” as claim 2 recites.

Inasmuch as the prior art fails to teach or suggest all of the claim limitations, the prior art cannot render claim 2 unpatentable. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection.

Claims 3 and 4 depend from claim 2 and should be in condition for allowance for at least the same reasons as set forth above.

Claims 7 depends from claim 20 and should be in condition for allowance for at least the same reasons as set forth below.

Claim 8 is cancelled.

Claims 9-14 depend from claim 20 and should be in condition for allowance for at least the same reasons as set forth below.

Claim 15 recites a device management terminal connected to a network device so that it can communicate with the network device. The terminal comprises a module storing section for storing function provision module that is applied to the network device to provide it with functions, a device information receiving section for receiving device information regarding the network device, a function determining section for determining a function provision module that has a function available to the network device based on the device information received by the device information receiving section, a module reading section for reading the function provision module determined by the function determining section from the module storing section, a module sending section for sending the function provision module read by the module reading section to the network device and a function selecting section that allows a user to select one or more of the functions corresponding to the function provision module determined by the function determining section, and wherein the module reading section reads out a function provision module that corresponds to a function selected by the function selecting section from the module storing section.

Thus, claim 15 requires a function selecting section that allows a user to select one or more of the functions corresponding to the function provision module determined by the function determining section. As noted above, Matsukura fails to teach this subject matter. As such, even if the proposed combination is made, the combination does not teach or suggest all of the claim limitations.

Claim 16 recites a network device connected to a device management terminal so that they can communicate with each other. The device comprises a device information storing section for storing the device information regarding a network device, a device information sending section for sending the device information stored by the device information storing section to the device management terminal, a module receiving section for receiving a function provision module that is applied to the network device to provide it with a function, and a module executing section for executing the function provision module received by the module receiving section, and a function selecting section that allows a user to select one or more of the functions corresponding to the function provision module.

Thus, claim 16 requires a function selecting section that allows a user to select one or more of the functions corresponding to the function provision module. As noted above, Matsukura fails to teach this subject matter. As such, even if the proposed combination is made, the combination does not teach or suggest all of the claim limitations.

Claim 17 recites a programmable computer that is connected to a network device so that they can communicate with each other. The computer has a memory containing a terminal program for causing the computer to execute processing that is realized as a

device information receiving section for receiving device information regarding the network device, a function determining section for determining a function provision module that has a function available to the network device based on the device information received by the device information receiving section, a module reading section for reading the function provision module determined by the function determining section from the module reading section, a module sending section for sending the function provision module read by the module reading section to the network device, and a function selecting section that allows a user to select one or more of the functions corresponding to the function provision module determined by the function determining section, and wherein the module reading section reads out a function provision module that corresponds to a function selected by the function selecting section.

Thus, claim 17 requires a function selecting section that allows a user to select one or more of the functions corresponding to the function provision module determined by the function determining section. As noted above, Matsukura fails to teach this subject matter. As such, even if the proposed combination is made, the combination does not teach or suggest all of the claim limitations.

Claim 18 recites a programmable computer that is connected to a network device so that they can communicate with each other. The computer having a memory containing a terminal program causing the computer to execute processing that is realized as a device information sending section for sending device information stored by a device information storing section to a device management terminal, a module receiving section for receiving a function provision module that is applied to the

computer to provide it with a function, a module executing section for executing the function provision module received by the module receiving section, and a function selecting section that allows a user to select one or more of the functions corresponding to the function provision module.

Thus, claim 18 requires a function selecting section that allows a user to select one or more of the functions corresponding to the function provision module. As noted above, Matsukura fails to teach this subject matter. As such, even if the proposed combination is made, the combination does not teach or suggest all of the claim limitations.

Claim 19 recites a device management method for connecting a network device so that it can communicate and manage the network device. When device information regarding the network device is received, functions available to the network device are determined based on the device information, and based on the determination, a function provision module that is applied to the network device to provide it with a function is sent to the network device, and a function selecting section is provided that allows a user to select one or more of the functions corresponding to the function provision module.

Thus, claim 19 requires a function selecting section is provided that allows a user to select one or more of the functions corresponding to the function provision module. As noted above, Matsukura fails to teach this subject matter. As such, even if the proposed combination is made, the combination does not teach or suggest all of the claim limitations.

Claim 20 recites a device management system which connects a network device with a device management terminal that manages the network device so that they can communicate with each other. The system comprises the device management terminal including a module storing section for storing a function provision module that is applied to the network device to provide it with functions, a device information receiving section for receiving device information regarding the network device, a function determining section for determining a function provision module that has a function available to the network device based on the device information received by the device information receiving section, a module reading section for reading the function provision module determined by the function determining section from the module storing section, and a module sending section for sending the function provision module read by the module reading section to the network device, and the network device including a device information storing section for storing the device information, a device information sending section for sending the device information stored by the device information storing section to the device management terminal, a module receiving section for receiving the function provision module, a module executing section for executing the function provision module received by the module receiving section and a function selecting section that allows a user to select one or more of the functions corresponding to the function provision module determined by the function determining section, and wherein the module reading section reads out a function provision module that corresponds to a function selected by the function selecting section from the module storing section. The device management terminal includes a selection interface generating section for generating a selection interface through which one can select one

or more of the functions corresponding to the function provision module determined by the function determining section. The function selecting section presents the selection interface generated by the selection interface generating section to the user so that the user can select one or more of the functions.

Thus, claim 20 requires the device management terminal to include a selection interface generating section for generating a selection interface through which one can select one or more of the functions corresponding to the function provision module determined by the function determining section. Claim 20 also requires the function selecting section to present the selection interface generated by the selection interface generating section to the user so that the user can select one or more of the functions. As stated above, Matsukura does not teach that the device management terminal includes a selection interface generating section for generating a selection interface through which one can select one or more of the functions corresponding to function provision module determined by the function determining section and the function selecting section presents the selection interface generated by the selection interface generating section to the user so that the user can select one or more of the functions. Even more particularly, the feature “the selection interface generated by said selection interface generating section to the user so that the user can select one or more of the functions” is not disclosed or suggested in Matsukura.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests

that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action and the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

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